

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as set forth below. The complete set of claims is provided below in compliance with the Revised 37 C.F.R. § 1.121, Effective July 30, 2003. The status of each claim is shown next to each claim number; current additions are shown by underlines and deletions are shown by strikethrough.

1. (Currently amended) An absorbent article comprising:
 - a substantially impermeable backsheet;
 - a permeable topsheet; and
 - an absorbent core disposed between the substantially impermeable backsheet and the permeable topsheet, said absorbent core comprising a superabsorbent polymer having a Gel Integrity Index (GII) of less than about 500 kg mm; and
 - wherein the superabsorbent polymer has an AUL value of less than about 25 g/g at 0.3 psi, said AUL value being grams of a 0.9% by weight sodium chloride solution per grams of the superabsorbent polymer.
2. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the superabsorbent polymer is about 10% to about 80% by weight of the absorbent core.
3. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the superabsorbent polymer is about 20% to about 60% by weight of the absorbent core.
4. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the superabsorbent polymer is about 30% to about 50% by weight of the absorbent core.
5. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the absorbent core additionally comprises about 50% to about 70% by weight of wettable fibers.
6. (Previously amended) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the superabsorbent polymer has an AUL value of less than about 25 g/g at 0.3 psi and comprises a stabilizing agent.

7. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the superabsorbent polymer is crosslinked.
8. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the superabsorbent polymer is a polyacrylate.
9. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the superabsorbent polymer has a Gel Integrity Index (GII) of less than about 10 kg mm.
10. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the superabsorbent polymer has a Gel Integrity Index (GII) of less than about 1 kg mm.
11. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the superabsorbent polymer has a Gel Integrity Index (GII) of less than about 0.05 kg mm.
12. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the superabsorbent polymer has a Gel Integrity Index (GII) of about 0.10 kg mm to about 0.30 kg mm.
13. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the absorbent core additionally comprises a surfactant, a filler, an additive or a combination thereof.
14. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 13, wherein the additive is selected from the group consisting of a flame retardant, a reinforcing agent, an auxiliary blowing agent, a medicament, a fragrance, a colorant, a cleaner, an abrasive and a combination thereof.
15. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the absorbent article is a diaper, incontinent brief, training pant, diaper holder, diaper liner, sanitary napkin, hygienic garment or combination thereof.
16. (Currently amended) An absorbent article comprising:
 - a substantially impermeable backsheet;
 - a permeable topsheet;
 - an absorbent core comprising about 30% to about 50% by weight of a superabsorbent polymer and about 50% to about 70% by weight of wettable fibers, said absorbent core being disposed between the substantially impermeable backsheet and the permeable topsheet, said superabsorbent polymer having a Gel Integrity Index (GII) of less than about 500 kg mm and

comprising a stabilizing agent; and
wherein the superabsorbent polymer has an AUL value of less than about 25 g/g
at 0.3 psi, said AUL being measured at 0.3 psi of grams of a 0.9% by weight
sodium chloride solution per grams of the superabsorbent polymer.

17. (Currently amended) The absorbent article of claim 16, wherein the superabsorbent polymer ~~has an AUL value of less than about 25 g/g at 0.3 psi is in particulate form.~~
18. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 16, wherein the superabsorbent polymer is crosslinked.
19. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 16, wherein the superabsorbent polymer is a polyacrylate.
20. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 16, wherein the superabsorbent polymer has a Gel Integrity Index (GII) of less than about 10 kg mm.
21. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 16, wherein the superabsorbent polymer has a Gel Integrity Index (GII) of less than about 1 kg mm.
22. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 16, wherein the superabsorbent polymer has a Gel Integrity Index (GII) of less than about 0.05 kg mm.
23. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 16, wherein the superabsorbent polymer has a Gel Integrity Index (GII) of about 0.10 kg mm to about 0.30 kg mm.
24. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 16, wherein the absorbent core additionally comprises a surfactants, a filler, an additive or a combination thereof.
25. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 24, wherein the additive is selected from the group consisting of a flame retardant, a reinforcing agent, an auxiliary blowing agent, a medicament, a fragrance, a colorant, a cleaner, an abrasive and a combination thereof.
26. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 16, wherein the absorbent article is a diaper, incontinent brief, training pant, diaper holder, diaper liner, sanitary napkin, hygienic garment or combination thereof.

27. (Currently amended) An absorbent article comprising:

 a substantially impermeable backsheet;

 a permeable topsheet;

 an absorbent core comprising about 30% to about 50% by weight of a crosslinked superabsorbent polymer, said absorbent core being disposed between the substantially impermeable backsheet and the permeable topsheet, said crosslinked superabsorbent polymer having a Gel Integrity Index (GII) of about 0.10 kg mm to about 0.30 kg mm and an AUL value of less than about 25 g/g, said AUL being measured at 0.3 psi of grams of a 0.9% by weight sodium chloride solution per grams of the superabsorbent polymer.

28. (Currently amended) An absorbent garment comprising:

 a substantially impermeable backsheet and a permeable topsheet defining a front waist portion and a rear waist portion, said front waist portion and said rear waist portion cooperating to form a waist opening;

 a crotch region formed between the front waist portion and the rear waist portion;

 a pair of leg openings on opposed sides of the crotch region;

 an absorbent core disposed between the substantially impermeable backsheet and the permeable topsheet at the crotch region;

 wherein the absorbent core comprises a superabsorbent polymer having a Gel Integrity Index (GII) of less than about 500 kg mm;

 wherein the superabsorbent polymer has an AUL value of less than about 25 g/g at 0.3 psi, said AUL being measured at 0.3 psi of grams of a 0.9% by weight sodium chloride solution per grams of the superabsorbent polymer.

29. (Original) The absorbent garment of claim 28, wherein the superabsorbent polymer is about 10% to about 80% by weight of the absorbent core.

30. (Original) The absorbent garment of claim 28, wherein the superabsorbent polymer is about 20% to about 60% by weight of the absorbent core.

31. (Original) The absorbent garment of claim 28, wherein the superabsorbent polymer is about 30% to about 50% by weight of the absorbent core.
32. (Original) The absorbent garment of claim 28, wherein the absorbent core additionally comprises about 50% to about 70% by weight of wettable fibers.
33. (Previously submitted) The absorbent garment of claim 28, wherein the superabsorbent polymer has an AUL value of less than about 25 g/g at 0.3 psi and comprises a stabilizing agent.
34. (Original) The absorbent garment of claim 28, wherein the superabsorbent polymer is crosslinked.
35. (Original) The absorbent garment of claim 28, wherein the superabsorbent polymer is a polyacrylate.
36. (Original) The absorbent garment of claim 28, wherein the superabsorbent polymer has a Gel Integrity Index (GII) of less than about 10 kg mm.
37. (Original) The absorbent garment of claim 28, wherein the superabsorbent polymer has a Gel Integrity Index (GII) of less than about 1 kg mm.
38. (Original) The absorbent garment of claim 28, wherein the superabsorbent polymer has a Gel Integrity Index (GII) of less than about 0.05 kg mm.
39. (Original) The absorbent garment of claim 28, wherein the superabsorbent polymer has a Gel Integrity Index (GII) of about 0.10 kg mm to about 0.30 kg mm.
40. (Original) The absorbent garment of claim 28, wherein the absorbent core additionally comprises a surfactant, a filler, an additive or a combination thereof.
41. (Original) The absorbent garment of claim 40, wherein the additive is selected from the group consisting of a flame retardant, a reinforcing agent, an auxiliary blowing agent, a medicament, a fragrance, a colorant, a cleaner, an abrasive and a combination thereof.
42. (Currently amended) A composition comprising:
about 10% to about 80% by weight of a superabsorbent polymer, said superabsorbent polymer having a Gel Integrity Index (GII) of less than about 500

kg mm; and

about 20% to about 90% by weight of wettable fibers;

wherein the superabsorbent polymer has an AUL value of less than about 25 g/g at 0.3 psi, said AUL being measured at 0.3 psi of grams of a 0.9% by weight sodium chloride solution per grams of the superabsorbent polymer.

43. (Original) The composition of claim 42, wherein the superabsorbent polymer is about 20% to about 60% by weight of the composition.
44. (Original) The composition of claim 42, wherein the superabsorbent polymer is about 30% to about 50% by weight of the composition.
45. (Previously submitted) The composition of claim 42, wherein the superabsorbent polymer has an AUL value of less than about 25 g/g at 0.3 psi and comprises a stabilizing agent.
46. (Original) The composition of claim 42, wherein the superabsorbent polymer is crosslinked.
47. (Original) The composition of claim 42, wherein the superabsorbent polymer is a polyacrylate.
48. (Original) The composition of claim 42, wherein the superabsorbent polymer has a Gel Integrity Index (GII) of less than about 10 kg mm.
49. (Original) The composition of claim 42, wherein the superabsorbent polymer has a Gel Integrity Index (GII) of less than about 1 kg mm.
50. (Original) The composition of claim 42, wherein the superabsorbent polymer has a Gel Integrity Index (GII) of less than about 0.05 kg mm.
51. (Original) The composition of claim 42, wherein the superabsorbent polymer has a Gel Integrity Index (GII) of about 0.10 kg mm to about 0.30 kg mm.
52. (Currently amended) A composition prepared by a process comprising:
combining about 10% to about 80% by weight of a superabsorbent polymer having a Gel Integrity Index (GII) of less than about 500 kg mm with about 20% to about 90% by weight of wettable fibers;
wherein the superabsorbent polymer has an AUL value of less than about 25 g/g

at 0.3 psi, said AUL being measured at 0.3 psi of grams of a 0.9% by weight sodium chloride solution per grams of the superabsorbent polymer.

53. (Original) The composition of claim 52, wherein the superabsorbent polymer is about 20% to about 60% by weight of the composition.
54. (Original) The composition of claim 52, wherein the superabsorbent polymer is about 30% to about 50% by weight of the composition.
55. (Previously amended) The composition of claim 52, wherein the superabsorbent polymer has an AUL value of less than about 25 g/g at 0.3 psi and comprises a stabilizing agent.
56. (Original) The composition of claim 52, wherein the superabsorbent polymer is crosslinked.
57. (Original) The composition of claim 52, wherein the superabsorbent polymer is a polyacrylate.
58. (Original) The composition of claim 52, wherein the superabsorbent polymer has a Gel Integrity Index (GII) of less than about 10 kg mm.
59. (Original) The composition of claim 52, wherein the superabsorbent polymer has a Gel Integrity Index (GII) of less than about 1 kg mm.
60. (Original) The composition of claim 52, wherein the superabsorbent polymer has a Gel Integrity Index (GII) of less than about 0.05 kg mm.
61. (Original) The composition of claim 52, wherein the superabsorbent polymer has a Gel Integrity Index (GII) of about 0.10 kg mm to about 0.30 kg mm.
62. (Currently amended) A method of preparing a composition for use in absorbent articles comprising:
combining wettable fibers with a superabsorbent polymer having a Gel Integrity Index of less than about 500 kg mm and an AUL value of less than about 25 g/g at 0.3 psi, said AUL being measured at 0.3 psi of grams of a 0.9% by weight sodium chloride solution per grams of the superabsorbent polymer;
wherein the wettable fibers comprise about 20% to about 90% by weight of the

composition and the superabsorbent polymer comprises about 10% to about 80% by weight of the composition.

63. (Original) The method of claim 62, wherein the superabsorbent polymer is about 20% to about 60% by weight of the composition.
64. (Original) The method of claim 62, wherein the superabsorbent polymer is about 30% to about 50% by weight of the composition.
65. (Original) The method of claim 62, wherein the wettable fibers comprises about 50% to about 70% by weight of the composition.
66. (Previously submitted) The method of claim 62, wherein the superabsorbent polymer has an AUL value of less than about 25 g/g at 0.3 psi and comprises a stabilizing agent.
67. (Original) The method of claim 62, wherein the superabsorbent polymer has a Gel Integrity Index (GII) of less than about 10 kg mm.
68. (Original) The method of claim 62, wherein the superabsorbent polymer has a Gel Integrity Index (GII) of less than about 1 kg mm.
69. (Original) The method of claim 62, wherein the superabsorbent polymer has a Gel Integrity Index (GII) of less than about 0.05 kg mm.
70. (Original) The method of claim 62, wherein the superabsorbent polymer has a Gel Integrity Index (GII) of about 0.10 kg mm to about 0.30 kg mm.
71. (Currently amended) A method of preparing an absorbent article comprising: combining a superabsorbent polymer having a Gel Integrity Index of less than about 500 kg mm and an AUL value of less than about 25 g/g at 0.3 psi with wettable fibers to form an absorbent core and disposing the absorbent core between a substantially impermeable backsheet and a permeable topsheet, said AUL being measured at 0.3 psi of grams of a 0.9% by weight sodium chloride solution per grams of the superabsorbent polymer.
72. (Original) The method of claim 71, wherein the superabsorbent polymer is about 10% to about 80% by weight of the absorbent core.

73. (Previously submitted) The method of claim 71, wherein the superabsorbent polymer is about 20% to about 60% by weight of the absorbent core.
74. (Previously submitted) The method of claim 71, wherein the superabsorbent polymer is about 30% to about 50% by weight of the absorbent core.
75. (Previously submitted) The method of claim 71, wherein the wettable fibers comprise about 20% to about 90% of the absorbent core.
76. (Previously submitted) The method of claim 71, wherein the wettable fibers comprise about 50% to about 70% by weight of the absorbent core.
77. (Previously submitted) The method of claim 71, wherein the superabsorbent polymer has an AUL value of less than about 25 g/g at 0.3 psi and comprising a stabilizing agent.
78. (Original) The method of claim 71, wherein the superabsorbent polymer has a Gel Integrity Index (GII) of less than about 10 kg mm.
79. (Original) The method of claim 71, wherein the superabsorbent polymer has a Gel Integrity Index (GII) of less than about 1 kg mm.
80. (Original) The method of claim 71, wherein the superabsorbent polymer has a Gel Integrity Index (GII) of less than about 0.05 kg mm.
81. (Original) The method of claim 71, wherein the superabsorbent polymer has a Gel Integrity Index (GII) of about 0.10 kg mm to about 0.30 kg mm.
82. (Currently amended) An absorbent article comprising:
 - a substantially impermeable backsheet;
 - a permeable topsheet; and
 - an absorbent core disposed between the substantially impermeable backsheet and the permeable topsheet, said absorbent core comprising a superabsorbent polymer having a Gel Integrity Index (GII) of less than about 10 kg mm; and
wherein the superabsorbent polymer has an AUL value of less than about 25 g/g
at 0.3 psi, said AUL being measured at 0.3 psi of grams of a 0.9% by weight
sodium chloride solution per grams of the superabsorbent polymer.

83. (Previously submitted) The absorbent article of claim 82, wherein the superabsorbent polymer has a Gel Integrity Index (GII) of less than about 1 kg mm.
84. (Previously submitted) The absorbent article of claim 82, wherein the superabsorbent polymer has a Gel Integrity Index (GII) of less than about 0.05 kg mm.
85. (Previously submitted) The absorbent article of claim 82, wherein the superabsorbent polymer has a Gel Integrity Index (GII) of about 0.10 kg mm to about 0.30 kg mm.